Have You Truly Denied Yourself?

Can you say that as a result of your decision, all things have become new, and the old things have passed away, as it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

 Answer: No (incorrect) — Explanation: If your answer is "No," then it cannot be considered a genuine new birth. It is essential to stop and examine yourself honestly. Being born again is not just an emotional decision or a verbal declaration, but a profound and visible transformation of your life, priorities, and thinking.

The apostle Paul leaves no room for interpretation when he says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. " (Colossians 3:1-3).

If, after years of faith, your life is still centered on the old things—such as working from morning until evening, comfort, earthly achievements— while the Kingdom of God is left in second place, then you are not living in obedience to Christ. To disregard this command means to live in contradiction to the new identity you claim to have in Christ.

Paul warns with sorrow: "For many... walk as enemies of the cross of Christ... with minds set on earthly things. Their end is destruction." (Philippians 3:18-19) True rebirth produces a radical change:

• The mind is reoriented toward heaven.

• The heart is attached to Christ.

• Priorities are set on new things, things above.

• Life is lived in obedience and discipleship.

To continue living as before, with only a religious facade but without a real change in the center of your life, is dangerous self-deception. It is not enough to attend church or pray. If you do not walk according to the things above, you are not living as one who has been raised with Christ.

 Answer: Yes — Explanation: If this is confirmed by your life and behavior, then it is a genuine new birth. It is not a mere religious decision, but a profound transformation of the mind, heart, and conduct. Desires have changed, sin no longer has power, and life is led by the Holy Spirit.

Values, priorities, and goals are no longer tied to earthly things but are centered on Christlikeness. As Scripture says, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

But if your answer is “yes,” yet when you look honestly in the mirror of the Word, you see that not all things have been made new, but you have retained old things in your life, then you must humbly admit that you are in a state of self-deception.

It is easy to say that you are in Christ, but if your life does not reflect a clear break from the past, if worldly habits, attitudes, and attachments still define your experience, then you are not what you claim to be. Scripture warns, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

For illustration, let's take a concrete case of an old thing that has not been made new—involvement in the affairs of this world, especially those related to the politics of the day — a characteristic common to many who believe they have been born again.

Reality shows that this attachment to the systems of the world persists even in the lives of those who claim to have long been on the path of faith, betraying a lack of genuine transformation. To become emotionally engaged in elections, ideological debates, or in supporting a system or a faction reveals that the old life has not truly been abandoned and that the values of the world still hold a place in the heart.

It is proof that the heart still lives under the influence of the earthly nature, anchored in the old things of the world, seeking human solutions to its problems, instead of dedicating itself to discipleship in order to become like Christ.

A born-again person no longer belongs to this world. He no longer fights for earthly causes, no longer invests energy in temporary structures, no longer seeks solutions through human means. He knows that his citizenship is in heaven and that he is only a stranger and a traveler on this earth.

If you get involved in the politics of this world, if you worry about who is in charge, who wins, who loses, then you are living as a citizen of this world, not of heaven. And if you live like that, you cannot say that all things have been made new.

To understand what a new life really means, we must look to the Lord Jesus. He is the supreme model of a life separated from the world. Although He lived in a tense political context, under Roman occupation, He did not get involved in politics, social reforms, or worldly ideologies. He did not seek to change the system, but to save souls. He clearly stated, "My kingdom is not of this world."

He was not concerned with who ruled Rome or Judea, but with the salvation of mankind. And if He lived that way, His disciples must live that way too. "Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked." 1 John 2:6 This is not a suggestion, but a holy calling.

To be His disciple means to follow His example in everything. If He was separate from the world, so must we be. If He did not get involved in the politics of the world, neither are we allowed to do so. To live otherwise is to deceive ourselves, even if we speak pious words.

Imagine you are on your way to an important destination, such as Germany, and on your journey you pass through a foreign country—let's say Hungary. You don't stop to vote there, nor do you get involved in their internal politics. You don't make plans for the future in that country because you know you are just passing through. You have a clear destination, and the time you spend there is short and rootless.

You don't behave like a local, but like a stranger and traveler who knows he doesn't belong there. Such is the life of a Christian on earth: he is not a citizen of this world, but only a stranger and traveler on his way to heaven. To stop along the way and get entangled in the political problems of this world is to forget who you are and where you are going.

It is a subtle but dangerous deviation from the heavenly calling. And yet, many who claim to be born again stop there. They get involved. They worry. They fight for political causes, for ideologies, for human justice. But in this commitment to the world, they break clear commands of Scripture. It is not just a personal choice, but conscious disobedience.

The Word of God clearly says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above" (Colossians 3:1-2). But when the mind is filled with news, political analysis, and social unrest, there is no room left for things above. The command is clear, and its violation cannot be justified by good intentions or seemingly noble motivations.

The righteous person has a clear and firm attitude toward the influences of the world. He does not voluntarily expose himself to information or contexts that defile the soul. Scripture says: "He who walks righteously... shuts his eyes from looking at evil" (Isaiah 33:15). This is not a simple choice of the moment, but a discipline of the heart.

In this context, the church has the responsibility to watch that no believer becomes worldly and strays from the heavenly calling. A living church does not tolerate compromise. When its members cling to old and worldly things—such as involvement

in politics—it is clear evidence that the church allows these deviations. And by this, even if it has the reputation of being alive, it is dead.

Psalm 1 reinforces this image of separation from the world: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1). The righteous man not only guards his eyes but also his steps and the place where he sets his heart. He does not seek the counsel of the world, does not linger in its midst, and does not settle comfortably into its atmosphere. He knows that any closeness to worldly thinking is a departure from the mind of Christ.

We are told: "I urge you, as strangers and travelers, to abstain from the desires of the flesh..." (1 Peter 2:11). And involvement in the systems of this world shows that you are not living as a stranger, but as a citizen of the earth. Not as a stranger and traveler, but as a person who has found his place here. And if you have settled comfortably into this world, how can you say that you are on your way to heaven?

All these are not just signs of weakness, but clear evidence that the old things have not gone away. That new life has not truly begun. That being born again is not real, but only a form without substance. A person who feeds on the things of the world, who is involved in the politics and ideologies of the world, who is concerned with the systems of this world, does not live as Lord Jesus lived. And if he does not live like Him, he is not His disciple, no matter how religious his life may seem.

True rebirth produces a clear break from the values of the world and an exclusive orientation toward things above. It is a new life, not just an improved life. It is a departure from the past, not a cosmetic change. It is walking in the light, not hiding in the darkness with Sunday clothes. And only there, in this new life, does discipleship truly begin. There the likeness to Christ begins. There heaven begins.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.